



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE
32 Refuge Headquarters
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

35TH ANNUAL BUFFALO AUCTION

The 35th annual public auction of native bison will begin at 12:00 noon, October 27, 2005, at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The auction is located at the corrals, immediately north of Refuge Headquarters, 12 miles north of Cache, Oklahoma. Sale animals may be viewed by registered buyers in the corrals between approximately 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., prior to the sale. This year's auction will be conducted by Dub Venable, Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Approximately 160 sales animals this year will consist of mature bulls, mature cows, and weanling calves.

Health certificates (brucellosis, tuberculosis and general health) will be provided by a veterinarian following the sale. All sale animals will have been tested negative for brucellosis and tuberculosis and all heifer calves will have been vaccinated against brucellosis, with RB51 vaccine. Due to the numerous variances in state requirements concerning the importation of bison, all **buyers should be aware of their state's regulations and check with their State Veterinarian prior to purchasing bison.**

Payment may be made at the close of the auction in the form of cash, cashier's check, traveler's check or personal check. Buyers or their agents must be present at the auction to bid.

Loadout will begin immediately following the sale and continue until 6:45 p.m. All buyers should come prepared to loadout animals purchased on Thursday. Any animals not loaded on Thursday due to time constraints may be loaded on Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. The refuge assumes no liability for injuries or death to animals that could have been loaded out Thursday. All buyers will be loaded out in the order in which they pay out.

To reduce the possibility of transmission of infectious diseases to Refuge herds, all trailers must be cleaned prior to entering the Refuge. All trailers and vehicles must be sturdy and adequate for hauling bison. It is recommended that all bulls three years of age and older be hauled separately. The Refuge reserves the right to refuse to load animals in any trailer or vehicle considered to be unsuitable for transporting bison.

The Lawton Chamber of Commerce and Industry will provide complimentary coffee and a burger plate for the nominal sum of \$5.00 on auction day. Buyers and visitors alike are welcome to attend the auction and enjoy Southwest Oklahoma's and the Refuge's hospitality.

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